

Dear Environment Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko and Energy and Technology Committee Co-Chair Will Haskell and all of the distinguished members of these Committees,

I write to ask you to support SB 4, An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act and HB 5039, An Act Concerning Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles.

I think it is very important that all of CT's light-duty vehicles will be zero-emission by 2030.

We need 100% zero-emission school buses, too, especially in environmental justice communities, like Hartford, Bridgeport and Waterbury, by 2030 and in the rest of the state by 2035. The bill also needs to contain goals to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs). Please put into the statute language on VMTs from Executive Order 22-3, which mandates the CT DOT produce a plan to reduce VMT's by 2030. It's an effective way to address air pollution from our transportation system while improving safety for vulnerable road users.

Transportation pollution in CT is a huge problem for environmental justice, public health and our climate. Diesel trucks and buses contribute to dangerous ozone pollution. People who live near roadways are at a greater risk for health impacts from poor air quality, including asthma, heart disease and impaired lung development in children. The COVID pandemic has laid bare these facts that lower-income neighborhoods near polluting areas suffer many types of diseases and worse, death.

I also ask you to support HB 5039 to authorize the DEEP to pass regulations to adopt California medium and heavy-duty vehicle emission standards. No state can adopt their own emissions standards, but a Federal law of 1963 allows states like CT to follow the lead of California in what it has adopted for their vehicle regulations.

We need these acts to pass to be on track to meet our CT 2030 emissions targets. By adopting these standards and these acts, Connecticut can improve its air quality and public health and address environmental justice issues in our state and begin to address the climate crisis.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to offer this testimony. Thanks you for all you do to address your constituents' concerns.

Sincerely,

Rev. Nancy Leckerling
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